

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9-18 and add new claims 30 and 31. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is set forth below.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for screening ~~for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the activity of a Toso cell surface receptor, said method comprising the steps of~~, comprising:

a) ~~adding a candidate bioactive agent to~~ contacting a hematopoietic cell with a candidate agent in vitro, said hematopoietic cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso protein cell-surface receptor, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement; and

b) ~~exposing said hematopoietic cell to an apoptotic agent that will induce apoptosis; and~~

c) ~~determining the effect of the candidate bioactive agent on~~ assessing apoptosis of said hematopoietic cell.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 9, wherein said method comprises contacting a plurality of hematopoietic cells with a library of candidate bioactive agents, wherein said hematopoietic cells comprise a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso protein, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement ~~is added to a plurality of hematopoietic cells comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso cell surface receptor.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 9, wherein said assessing comprises ~~further comprising~~ adding a labeling agent that will label for detection of apoptotic cells.

12. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 11, wherein said assessing comprises ~~further comprising~~ separating apoptotic cells from non-apoptotic cells.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 11, wherein said labeling agent is annexin.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 12, wherein said ~~separation~~ separating is done by FACS.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 9 31, wherein said apoptotic agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-Fas antibody, TNF- α , FADD, cycloheximide, PMA, ionomycin and chemotherapeutic agents.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating apoptosis in a cell in vitro ~~comprising~~, comprising:

administering to said cell an exogenous compound that binds to a Toso protein of said cell, wherein said Toso protein is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement, ~~and~~ wherein said binding of the compound to the Toso protein modulates apoptosis in said cell.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

18. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.

19-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphocyte.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a B lymphocyte.
28. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a T lymphocyte.
29. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphoid cell.
30. **(New)** The method of claim 9, wherein the Toso protein is a Toso cell surface receptor.
31. **(New)** The method of claim 30, further comprising contacting said hematopoietic cell with an agent that induces apoptosis.